



**CITY OF AKRON, OHIO**  
**POLICE DIVISION**  
**KENNETH R. BALL II, CHIEF OF POLICE**

<b>NUMBER</b> P-2018-032	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b> September 10, 2018	<b>RESCINDS</b> N/A
<b>SUBJECT</b> Community Engagement Procedure		<b>ISSUING AUTHORITY</b> Chief Kenneth R. Ball II

## **I. MISSION AND PURPOSE**

It is the mission of the Akron Police Department to serve the community by enhancing the quality of life through crime prevention, enforcement of laws, promotion of safety, and reduction of fear. Engaging and participating in collaborative programs and events with the public and sharing and receiving information with the community is instrumental to the achievement of our mission, and upholds the Values and Principles of the Akron Police Department.

APD is committed to establishing close ties with community organizations by being receptive and responsive to the needs of the community. APD employees will work to maintain relationships with existing community organizations and will assist with establishing new organizations as APD operations permit.

## **II. POLICY**

It shall be APD's policy to become involved with community organizations in a cooperative, proactive manner to create a safer community, to encourage community groups, and to invite community groups and organizations to become involved with APD.

## **III. GUIDELINES**

### Akron Police Department Values and Principles:

- A. Honesty and Integrity – Employees will model a high standard of honesty and integrity in our personal and professional lives.
- B. Fairness – Employees will ensure fair and impartial treatment of all individuals in the department and the community APD serves.
- C. Competence – Through continuous improvement, employees will set a standard of excellence for delivery of law enforcement services in our community.
- D. Trust – Employees will enhance trust, teamwork, and communication by cooperating with each other and the community.

- E. Respect – Employees will treat everyone with dignity and respect and protect the constitutional rights of all citizens.

#### **IV. PROCEDURE**

- A. Community Outreach – The Akron Police Department uses a variety of media resources in an effort to keep the community informed about highlights occurring during the course of the year as well as obtain feedback from the community, including:
  - a. A Community Relations newsletter, which contains articles about police/community events, program activities, and public service announcements, is distributed monthly to members of the local community and business groups as well as City of Akron employees. The newsletter is published on the department website and shared through social media.
  - b. Social Media platforms, which are updated on a regular basis, are monitored for questions, feedback, and information shared by the community.
  - c. APD's website has links to crime statistics, police reports, complaint and compliment forms, and other social media sources that allow citizens to stay informed and involved.
- B. Programs, Activities, and Leadership Opportunities
  - a. Employees are encouraged to explore and be familiar with programs offered by the City administration and to support community groups in order to engage in community building efforts when participation opportunities arise. See Appendix A for current list of possible engagement opportunities.
  - b. Employees are also encouraged to approach Community Relations staff with new ideas for community engagement and programs.
  - c. APD representatives will attend meetings as requested or directed and as staffing levels permit.
  - d. APD will encourage community outreach through volunteerism to represent APD at community venues and events.
  - i. Employees are encouraged to convey information received from citizen's organizations to APD in order to improve APD practices that affect police-community involvement.

C. Annual Review and Testing

All APD employees shall complete an annual review of this procedure and annual proficiency testing over its content to ensure awareness of APD programs and expectations. Review and testing may be conducted during roll calls.

By Order Of,



Kenneth R. Ball II  
Chief of Police

Date

8-29-18

**Appendix A  
(Effective August 20, 2018)  
Akron Police Department  
Community Engagement Opportunities**

**To effect this community engagement function, APD considers the following as eligible community engagement programs, as operational needs permit, and are not limited to those listed here:**

Akron Canal Coalition	Lockdown Drills/School Emergency Ops Plans
Akron Police Explorers	National Night Out
Akron Urban League Committee	Police Museum & Store
ALICE	Positive Tickets
APD Memorial	Prom Promise
Block Watch	Reach One Teach One
Bullying Awareness	Red Cross Blood Drive
Capstone/H.S. Senior Experience	Run, Hide, Fight
CIT Outreach Program	Safe Driving Committee (Children's Hospital)
CFAM (CSB)	Safe Kids (Children's Hospital)
Christmas with a Cop	Safe Kids Summit County Coalition
Delusions – Anti-drug challenge	Safety Town
Do the Right Thing	Senior Safety Commission (City of Akron)
General Code Enforcement Task Force	Sexting Awareness & Prevention (grades 6-9)
Hidden in Plain Sight	Special Olympics
Home/Business Security Check	Summit County Emergency Task Force
Honor Guard Events	Summit County Safe Communities
Intern Program	You and the Law
K.N.A.F.F. (Victim Assistance Program)	